

Town of Harpswell
Mitchell Field Committee Meeting
September 2, 2015

Attendees: Rob Roark, Nancy Sohl, Don Miskill, Jane Covey, Bill Muldoon, David Chipman, Nate Wildes and Michael McCabe.

Also present: Ellie Multer

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes: The July 6, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written [8-0-0]. The August 3, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written [8-0-0]

Old Business: Action Items (not listed in any specific priority order)

- **Action item: Draft front gate parking area expansion site plan.**
- **Action Work List:** Tel-Com Conduit Repairs, North Side Trail Stile, Creek Clearing, pour concrete slabs on which to set granite benches, remove dead tree at entrance copse, repair trail ruts, asphalt road repairs, till and smooth lower meadow so it is usable as a grass playing area, remove remaining fence barb wire, burn or remove invasive plants debris at concrete pad, remove barb wire from concrete pad, fill holes at waterfront & beside Admin Building and Sentry Building Refurbishment.
- **Action item: Bluff Area Work Plan.**
- **Action item: Trim Oak trees at entrance and improve visibility of the entrance.**
- **Action item: Develop and implement invasive species mitigation and removal plan.**
- **Action item: Develop a strategic plan to upgrade and maintain the open meadows.**
- **Action Item: Pier Disposition and Boat Launch Action List for 2016 Town Meeting.**
- **Action Item: Water tower disposition recommendation due in 2016.**

New Business:

- **New Committee Chair** – Rob Roark stepped down as MF Committee Chair. Jane Covey was nominated for the Chair position and approved [8-0-0].
- **Mitchell Field Rules:**
 - Kristi has been approached about the firearms restriction at MF. She has talked to MMA and they recommended that based on state law, firearms carry should be allowed. The BoS will address this issue at their next meeting. It was noted that hikers are reminded to wear orange during the fall hunting season on all town trails. There would still be a restriction on firearms discharge at the field.
 - There was a request to establish a rule that dog owners must have a leash for each dog under their control.
- **BoS Mitchell Field Workshop** – Scheduled for Thursday, September 24 @ 4:00 PM. Informal public meeting to address topics about Mitchell Field including but not limited to, the boat launch and the pier disposition. Jane asked that as many members as possible should attend.
- **Pier Status and Boat Launch:**
 - Jane indicated that going forward all our meetings would concentrate on developing our warrant article for the March 2016 town meeting.
 - Kristi is in the process of getting updated cost estimates for both projects.
 - Ellie says that we should not devote too much time to addressing how these projects should be funded. Leave that decision up to the Selectmen. Rob feels that we should address it because the

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public will ask the question and we need to have some answers. Ellie reiterated that the question of “How to fund the cost” is for the BoS to decide.

- **Community Garden:**

- The well is low, however, the barrel has been filled.
- The garden has done very well this year. A great growing season with this weather.
- The student intern project was reasonably successful. 2 of 3 interns worked out. There was a \$500 stipend. Jane will talk with the HCA students to get their feedback.
- There will be a Bowdoin Common Good team at the garden to work the huge beds.
- There has not been any vandalism, however, there was some concern expressed that the public thinks the garden is there for them to go in and pick what they like. Will need to educate folks that the plots are private.

- **Bluff Area Work:**

- Sumac has reemerged and will need to be cut again.
- Andre has not removed any of the vertical posts. He was going to remove 4 out of every 5 posts and leave the others for birdhouses. Don will follow-up with Andre.
- There will be a Bowdoin Common Good team to remove barbed wire on the bluff.

- **Signs Update:**

- The new roadside signs are installed and the feedback has all been positive.
- Mike has finalized the front gate display board which will have a brief history, small pictures of the field as it looked while serving as a fuel depot, and a large satellite view/map with major landmarks and trails labeled.
- The display board on the kiosk will be wide enough to hold the map and a separate display of the Mitchell Field Rules, side by side.
- Mike and Don are working with members of the Recreation Committee to develop a standard design for both proposed kiosks. One at the Town Office and One at Mitchell Field. They are looking at other kiosks and should have a final version shortly.

- **Field Activity** – The good weather has brought out the crowds. Don has printed a small card that asks people to refrain from parking on the grass. It is written in a positive, friendly tone and will be placed under the windshield wiper. The card will be sent to the other committee members.

- **Bandstand** – Had a great season of Thursday concerts. The Sunday concerts now begin. It is a great venue for public performances and word of mouth has increased attendance. We are keeping an eye on the porta-potty status as a result. Donations are up; the mail campaign brought in \$8000. The committee is working on next year’s schedule and considering a dinner concert.

- **Water Tower** – Up or down vote at the March 2016 town meeting. Need a definitive use proposal.

- **Business Solicitation** – Dave indicated that he had called the Casco Bay Ferry Line to see if they might be interested in using the pier at Mitchell Field as another sight-seeing stop in addition to Cook’s. Ellie felt there might be too much competition in that idea. She reminded committee members of the business solicitation protocol that was implemented several years ago concerning Mitchell Field. Any inquiries or ideas must be brought to Kristi and the BoS. They will pursue them.

- **Building Utilization** – Harpswell Coastal Academy and the Ash Point Library group will meet with the BoS on September 17, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

- **Action items** – Added several items to the Work List.

Handouts:

- Boat Launch Public Forums’ Notes updated to July 14, 2015.

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Next Meeting:

- Bowdoin Common Good Day crews at MF on September 19, 2015 at 1:00 PM.
- Workshop with Board of Selectmen on September 24, 2015 at 4:00 PM at the Town Office
- MFIC meeting on October 5, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Town Office
- MFIC meeting on November 2, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Town Office
- MFIC meeting on December 7, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Town Office
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The MFIC Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miskill, Secretary